

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19. Please amend Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment comprising the computer implemented steps of:
  - evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon [[an]] a recency of relevant access characteristic, said evaluating being based upon different grammars maintained for each speech enabled application comprising persistent, foreground, and background grammars, and said evaluating being applied to speech enabled applications whether the application is running or not;
  - receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running; and
  - directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon results of the step of evaluating the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step, prior to evaluating the contexts, of creating the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of identifying each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.

4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of directing the representation of the spoken utterance comprises using a grammar to identify and select a context of the selected speech enabled application.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.
8. (Currently Amended) [[An]] Computer apparatus for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment, comprising:
  - a context manager for evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon [[an]] a recency of relevant access characteristic, said context manager evaluating a context based on distinct grammars maintained for each speech enabled application comprising persistent, foreground, and background grammars, and said context manager evaluating each speech enabled application whether the application is running or not; and
  - a message handler for receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running;
  - the context manager receiving the representation of the spoken utterance from the message handler and directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon the evaluating of the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager, prior to evaluating the contexts, creates the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.
10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager identifies each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager uses a grammar to identify the selected speech enabled application.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
  - a computer usable medium for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment; and
  - a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer useable medium, including instructions to:
    - evaluate contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritize the contexts based upon [[an]] a recency of relevant access characteristic, regardless of the speech enabled applications' running state, said evaluating being based upon distinct grammars maintained for each speech enabled application comprising persistent, foreground, and background grammars;

receive a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running; and

direct the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon the evaluation of the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.

16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions, prior to evaluating the contexts, to create the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.
17. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions to identify each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions to use a grammar to identify the selected speech enabled application.
21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment comprising the steps of:
- evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon a recency of relevant access characteristic, said evaluating being based upon distinct grammars maintained for each speech enabled application comprising persistent, foreground, and background grammars;
  - receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple approaches; and
  - directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon results of the step of evaluating the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.
23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 22 wherein said directing is biased to the most recently accessed application.